

**CITY OF GAHANNA
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – November 7, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Luke Messinger called the Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 7:01 pm at the Gahanna Senior Center.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Diane Cantrell
Marlene Eader
Luke Messinger
Dot Micacchion
Eric Miller

Absent: Vincent Tremante

In attendance from the City Administration was Tony Collins, Director and Troy Euton, Deputy Director, Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Eader made a **MOTION** to approve the November 7, 2007 meeting minutes; seconded by Miller.
On roll call vote: Messinger, Yes, Micacchion, Yes, Miller, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, and Eader, Yes.
The motion carried 5-0.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Collins added Old Business the Parks & Recreation Foundation and New Business Park Land Dedication Ordinance and a Donation Request.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH THE ADDITIONS:

Cantrell made a **MOTION** to approve the October 3, 2007 agenda; seconded by Micacchion.
On roll call vote: Micacchion, Yes, Miller, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, Eader, Yes and Messinger, Yes.
The motion carried 5 – 0.

VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Rosenthal, 1048 Cloverly Drive, Gahanna Ohio
Residents of Wood Side Green South

HEARING OF VISITORS

Steve Rosenthal, 1048 Cloverly Drive, Gahanna Ohio stated he liked the work being done on the Rice Avenue Pond and wanted to know the plans are for the pond and had an idea for a community activity at the pond. Mr. Rosenthal would like to see a kid's day at the pond, where kids can learn how to fish and have a good time.

Euton explained that Rice Ave Pond has been drained and dredged as part of Phase I; the final plan is to refill the pond. Phase II of the restoration is to drain and dredge the two lower ponds on Preservation Way. There is also a wetland area to be mitigated. The plans include a walkway down around the Rice Ave Pond hillside to Preservation Way with a small playground

and a deck overlook on the upper pond, which can be used to fish from.

Collins explained the Recreation Team currently runs a yearly fishing derby at Woodside Green Park. Next year the plan is to have several fishing derbies at different locations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Woodside Green South Reserve

Collins explained that the neighbors of Woodside Green South Reserve were invited to the meeting for comments and concerns regarding proposed upgrades and changes for the park. The city has met several times in the past couple of years regarding resident concerns of the park, property and making the public portion of the pond catch and release only.

Resident comments:

Residents whose properties are adjacent to the pond gave up part of the property behind their homes in order to create a park for the community.

Several residents stated there are two issues that are daily issues at the pond and park; people show up and fish all day, sometimes they are using boats; they leave with fish, and leave their trash, fishing hooks and lines the ground. One trash can is not enough to accommodate all the trash left in the area.

People are going on private property and taking chairs and benches out of residents yard to use when they fish. Residents have had their wood logs, chairs and the park picnic tables thrown into the pond. People are parking on both sides of street, blocking access to mailboxes.

The park is no longer a nice atmosphere for the neighborhood. Additional trash receptacles are needed. The tables and trash cans need anchored to the ground. Residents are hoping that by making the pond catch and release only it will help improve the problem and if the police will patrol the park and pond more often it would help.

Collins stated the police are aware of the issues. The City believes that making the public areas of the pond catch and release it will resolve some of the issues and make the park nicer for the neighborhood.

Collins stated that the property has been listed as Wood Side Green South Reserve. The Cities definition of a reserve is land that is just there, it is not developed until needed for future use. The discussions have been to develop the property as a park. Neighbors brought a drawing to the city that proposed a trail through the park and a small play structure.

At this time the city is proposing to the residents to upgrade the land to a park, build a trail, install a small play structure and change the pond to catch and release only. The city can include a kiosk for park rules, signs regarding littering and catch and release if Council approves. Once the rules and signs are posted it will easier for the police and staff to enforce.

Upgrading the reserve to a park will change the maintenance standards for the site. Once the site becomes a park staff will empty the trash and visit the site daily.

Euton stated the Department has \$15,000 to improve the site. The Department would like to excavate the trail now and next spring pave the trail, lay stones and riprap on the shore line and install the playground, benches, tables, trash cans and signage.

After much discussion the Residents agreed that a paved trail is not necessary. There is already a trail through the park. Keep the trail more natural and unpaved. The need is for additional trash cans, repair the shore line, add additional benches, picnic tables, and post catch and release signs.

Resident question: are there considerations for parking?

Collins stated that the park is considered a pocket park for the community; no parking will be provided the intention is to serve people in a quarter mile radius and not to draw people in to park there and get out of their cars to utilize the park. The larger community parks have enough parking to draw more people.

Resident concerns regarding the parking issues; sometimes it is very difficult to get down the street, People Park in front of mailboxes, and block driveways. There is no parking on the park side of the street.

Collins said an option is to make no parking on both sides of the street in front of the park. The department can contact the city Streets department to see if it is a viable option.

Resident question: will a play structure be installed?

Collins stated that the city would like to install a small climbing and play structure to keep to the size of the pocket park and create a small gathering area.

Eader question if there is the option to revert the property back to private property. Collins stated the area is underserved with park land. The city is limited to the available space on the west side of Gahanna for park land. Reverting the property back to private will reduce the availability for residents to enjoy the benefits of the park.

Miller questioned if people are swimming in the pond? Resident comment yes there are people swimming in the pond. Eader questioned if people are ice skating on the pond. Collins stated the Parks Department does not monitor the pond for swimming or ice skating. Unless otherwise posted the pond is not safe for swimming or ice skating.

Messinger stated that the department will need to have further discussion regarding the property as it continues to improve the park.

Collins stated based on the responses from the residence in attendance the department will focus on stabilizing the bank, tables, benches, trash receptacles, and signage and monitor the situation. The department will request from Council a change in code to change Woodside Green South Reserve to Woodside Green South Park and request a change to ordinance 563.18 making Woodside Green South catch and release fishing only.

Micacchion made a **MOTION** to make Woodside Green South a Park and to add the park to the list of Catch and Release parks to ordinance 563.18; seconded by Eader. **On roll call vote:** Miller, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, Eader, Yes, Messinger, yes, Micacchion, Yes and Miller, Yes.
Motion carried 5- 0 and was approved.

At the time the Board took a recess.

Parks and Recreation Foundation

The Board discussed the draft Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation and By-Laws distributed to Board members at the October 3, 2007 meeting.

Board recommended the following changes to the draft Tree Ordinance:

- Entire document; change Board of Governors to Board of Trustees
- Entire document; change public members to members at large
- Article II Section 4: Terms of the initial ~~six~~ **three public-members at large** may be shortened to less than three (3) years in order to avoid expiration of all terms in the same year.
- Article III Section 1: ~~The annual meeting of the members of the Board of Governors Trustees of the Foundation shall be held on the third Wednesday of August of each year, unless otherwise designated by the Board of Governors, at such time and at such location within Franklin County, Ohio, as the Board of Governors shall select.~~ **There will be an annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation each year.**
- Article III Section 7: Notice of meeting, in writing, ~~or by telegram, cablegram, radiogram~~ or other form of communications of written messages. Collins will have City Attorney check to see if the language is required by Ohio Non-Profit Corporation Law.
- Article III Section 14: refers to Article VIII; there is no Article VIII.
- Article III Section 15: strike: and committees of the Board of which the Governor is a member during his/her term of office,
- Article III Section 15: The chairman
- Article IV Section 4: strike: At any meeting when the secretary is not in attendance
- Add Article VIII which addresses amendments to the By-Laws

The above changes will be made and forwarded to Board Members for a formal recommendation to Council at the January Board meeting.

Foundation Giving Program

The Board discussed the draft of the Foundation Giving Program. The names of the general contribution membership will be changes to Bronze, Silver, Gold and etc. The Foundation will make further recommendations and changes once the organization is formed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Park Land Dedication Fees

Collins distributed a draft revision of ordinance 1109.08. The zoning department that the ordinance needs revised. The zoning department staff researched a number of communities across the country regarding park land dedication. The zoning department and Collins have a draft that needs a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Board.

Collins will get a copy of the original 1109.08 to the board for review. The next step will be to present to the Planning Commission for review and input before going to Council for a requested code change.

Donation Request

Collins stated the department received a donation request from an organization that is not a 501 (c) 3. The request was brought before the Board. Based on the guidelines adopted by the

Board; the request will not be fulfilled.

Fee Waiver Review

Twig 178 requests a fee waiver for the use of the Golf Course Clubhouse.

Miller made a MOTION that the Board approve the fee waiver for Twig 178 for the use of the Golf Course Clubhouse rental; seconded by Micacchion. On roll call vote: Cantrell, No, Eader, No, Messinger, No, Micacchion, No and Miller, No. **Motion carried 5- 0 and was denied based upon the fee structure guidelines for nonprofit organizations.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS

None

DIRECTORS REPORT

Collins distributed the Director's Report, which includes the highlights from the month of October and Donation request approved by the department on behalf of the Board.

COMMITTEES' REPORT

Bikeway Advisory Committee

The project with Floyd Brown group has begun. The project with full cost estimates are expected to be complete in the next three months.

Community Improvement Corporation (C.I.C.)

The team is still working on the SID study. The Committee authorized Rob Matney to enter into a lease for Gahanna Chamber of Commerce, Gahanna Events, Inc and the Gahanna Convention and Visitors Bureau for office space in the professional building on Granville Street.

Creekside Development Team

Creekside is moving forward, five or six of the tenants and the garage should be open by the end of November. The Plaza is not expected to be open for several months.

Natural Resource Advisory Committee

The Natural Resource inventory of Pizzurro Park has been completed.

Dog Park Advisory Committee

Micacchion stated the Committee had a site visit and decided on the types of fencing and made several recommendations to the Parks staff. Collins stated Council authorized at supplemental request for \$60,000 to complete the new dog park at Pizzurro Park.

Foundation Committee

Collins distributed the draft By-Laws and a giving program for a Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation for the Boards review. The Board will discuss further in January 2008.

Veterans Memorial Committee

The Veterans Memorial Brick Dedication Ceremony will be on November 11, 2008 at 11 am.

POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT:

Miller stated volunteers are still needed for the Holiday Lights Parade on November 24, 2007. Eader stated the City and the Schools are working together looking at plans on building a softball complex.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Board at this time, Miller made a **MOTION** to adjourn; seconded by Eader. The motion carried, unanimously.

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2007

Luke Messinger, Chair

Secretary